

OFFICIALS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Conference Call May 13, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Coleman. He read the Mission and Conflict of Interest statements.

PRESENT: Coleman Bye, Mary Poleto, Gwenn Lochstet, Rick Carson, Mike Wigginton, Jamie Platt, Tiffany Epoca, Kylie McMurray, Mike Petrakis, Tom Estep

ABSENT: Jack Behm, Allie DeFrehn, John Nelson, Larry Schwarz, Rob Jorgensen, Carlos Inacio, Mike Seip

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The March 2024 minutes were approved. There wasn't a quorum at the April 2024 meeting, so the minutes could not be voted on.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

OC Chair - Coleman

- Coleman addressed the issue of needing a 2/3 quorum of the OC before being able to conduct business. The OC has 11 voting members (Coleman bye, Mike Wigginton, Mary Poleto, Tiffany Epoca, Rick Carson, Tom Estep, Gwenn Lochstet, John Nelson, Kylie McMurray, Jack Behm, Allie DeFrehn). A quorum has at least 8 of these members.
- Going forward, Coleman will send the invite for the next month's OC meeting within 24 hours of the conclusion of the previous meeting. Members should RSVP ASAP. MASI policy requires that a meeting be canceled if they do not have a known quorum by 3 days prior to the meeting.
- Coleman will deal with the issue of consistently absent members.

R9 – Mary and Rick

- The most recent Officials Certification Standards FAQ, sent out on May 8, 2024, offered clarifications to the certification process.
- Rick did not think it affects our day-to-day certification process.

Training – Rick and Tiffany

- No longer providing S&T clinics as they are provided by the NOC, per R9.
- They have 2 AO clinics coming up.
- There is no demand for starters and referee clinics at the moment.
- It was determined that they will not set up clinics until there is demand. Those interested in a clinic should email: officialstraining@maswim.org. This is listed on the website.

OTS – Mary

- National certification changes have been updated on May 1, but the changes are not reflected on OTS yet. However, it is on the reports.

Advancement – Tiffany and Mike Wigginton

- They continue to clear up those grandfathered in the old certification process because they had begun before R9 took effect on February 1, 2024.
- Tiffany proposed that MASI write our own evaluation form and submit it to the NOC for approval.
- Tiffany and Mike, along with other members of the Advancement Group, will look at some evaluation forms from other LSC's. They will present the draft to the OC at the next meeting for approval before sending on to the NOC.

Secretary - Gwenn

- She asked Jamie if a password is needed to open the Fathom replay of our OC meetings. He said we'll see with this meeting's replay.
- That replay was sent to her after the meeting and could not be opened without an SSO, which she didn't have.

Meet Management

- Someone is needed to oversee this area.

Certification - Rick

- Certifications are moving along.
- Rick would like a way to see all the current apprentices. He suggested a spreadsheet.

Athlete Representatives - Kylie

- Nothing new to report. She just completed some championship meets.

Coach Representative

- None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Migrating from the MA Officials Site to the MA Site

- The information on the current MA Official Site will be merged to the MA Site, and the Official site will be retired. The target date is September 1, 2024.
- Jamie emphasized that we do not want to fall back into the pattern of not sharing information in a timely manner.
- A point person/webmaster needs to be determined. They also must determine the proper levels of Team Unify access given to this person. All the officials should be considered when looking for a person to fill this role.
- Jamie suggested that the OC send a survey to all officials asking what they would like on the website. He wants to put relevant information there, and click counts are also important. Coleman will work on this with Jamie.

Workshop Follow-up Discussion

- About 62 officials attended the workshop at the HOD meeting.
- Coleman heard good things about it. He believes that it was valuable and perhaps should be an annual event. If so, there would have to be budget considerations.
- There was some discussion of planning, so that the information is not too dense while also keeping the session reasonably short.

Implementation of the Recruit, Retain and Advance (RR&A) Workgroup Recommendations

- Coleman will work on this to get it ready for the June OC meeting.
- Rick mentioned that he used to get information about new officials from their clinic registration. Under the new process he does not have this information anymore. He considers it a RR&A issue. There is a report of new officials registrations, but he cannot download it. Jamie and Rick will discuss this issue offline.

AO Curriculum

- Mary and Gwenn spoke to a group of 9 AO's during the Officials Workshop.
- Most of them were interested in developing an AO basics guide.
- Many were also interested in having a monthly AO roundtable meeting to discuss topics and questions.
- Mary, Gwenn, Tom, and Mike W. will work together on the guide and roundtable meetings.

Preparation for Long Course Championships

- MR's and AR's need to be assigned for Seniors, Juniors, and Silvers. A selected group of referees will also be asked to shadow at these meet in preparing to become MR's.
- Because of the lack of time, there will not be an OQM meet during championships this summer.
- Rick will develop an application process for MR's and AR's for championships next year. Coleman will help him with this development.

HOD Update

- Jamie gave an update of the HOD meeting.
- New board members were elected.
- The 2025 budget allotment for MASI increased, and there is money set aside for traveling.

USA Swimming Workshop

- Coleman will attend the meeting in Denver on September 26-29.
- He is not sure who will attend with him, but only 7 attendees are allowed from each LSC.

Term Limits for Committee Members

- Jamie informed us that OC members will only be allowed to serve 2 consecutive terms of 3-years each. Athlete members serve 2-year terms. Once the policy is implemented, each member will be assigned the year number of the first or second term.
- He reminded us that it is important for us to follow policy for consistency and order.
- Jamie also said that the board wants each committee to report to them annually.

Meeting Without a Quorum

- There was discussion of whether the OC could meet simply for discussion when there is not a quorum.
- Jamie indicated that it would be better if discussion times were informal and did not coincide with times designated for official OC meetings, such as the first Monday of every month.
- The importance of prioritizing attendance at OC meetings was reiterated.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, June 3, 2024

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 pm.

Minutes Submitted by Gwenn Lochstet